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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/978,030	10/17/2001	Hikaru Deguchi	215086US2X	3819
22850	7590	02/26/2004	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			WOO, ISAAC M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2172	9
DATE MAILED: 02/26/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

<b>Application No.</b> 09/978,030	<b>Applicant(s)</b> DEGUCHI ET AL.	
<b>Examiner</b> Isaac M Woo	<b>Art Unit</b> 2172	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 October 2001.
- 2a)  This action is **FINAL**.
- 2b)  This action is non-final.
- 3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4)  Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6)  Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All    b)  Some \*    c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weinreich et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,175,831, hereinafter, "Weinreich").

With respect to claim 1, Weinreich discloses, human relationships registering system (col. 2, lines 11-54, col. 3, lines 16-31), first data processing unit including section for inputting personal data of new members (user1), see (col. 18, lines 21-41, col. 6, lines 47-67 to col. 7, lines 1-67 to col. 8, lines 1-24, user1 (new member), to become member); and second data processing unit including, section for storing the received personal data of the new members by confirming relationships of the new members with existing members (pre-registered member) (col. 2, lines 11-54, col. 3, lines 16-31, fig. 6, col. 12, lines 8-58). Weinreich does not explicitly disclose correlating the new members with the existing members. However, Weinreich discloses user1 (new member) and user2 (pre-registered member, existing member, col. 3, lines 17-36, col.

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8, lines 25-65) are compared each other to get relationship between them, see (col. 8, lines 25-65). Thus, relationships are resulted from correlation of data between user1's (new member) personal data and user2's (existing member) personal data. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include correlating the new members with the existing members in the system of Weinreich. Because a user's some personal data is common to all user, which can be linked to other user's personal data that existed before. Thus, the correlation to other user's personal data provides relationship of all users.

With respect to claim 2, 6 and 10, Weinreich discloses, second data processing unit stores relationships coefficient representing degrees of relationships between particular members who agree to establish human relationships therebetween, and stores relationships coefficients of members who are related to the members who agree to establish human relationships, see (col. 6, lines 47-67 to col. 7, lines 1-67 to col. 8, lines 1-24).

With respect to claim 3, 7 and 11, Weinreich discloses, the agreement between the members is confirmed by exchanging e-mails, see (col. 3, lines 4-37).

With respect to claim 4, 8 and 12, Weinreich discloses, the second data processing unit creates human relationships data on the basis of stored personal data

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and relationships coefficients in response to members' requests and provide the created data to the members, see (col. 3, lines 4-37).

With respect to claims 5 and 9, Weinreich discloses, human relationships registering system (col. 2, lines 11-54, col. 3, lines 16-31), section for inputting personal data of new members (user1), see (col. 18, lines 21-41, col. 6, lines 47-67 to col. 7, lines 1-67 to col. 8, lines 1-24, user1 (new member), to become member); section for storing the received personal data of the new members by confirming relationships of the new members with existing members (pre-registered member) (col. 2, lines 11-54, col. 3, lines 16-31, fig. 6, col. 12, lines 8-58). Weinreich does not explicitly disclose correlating the new members with the existing members. However, Weinreich discloses user1 (new member) and user2 (pre-registered member, existing member, col. 3, lines 17-36, col. 8, lines 25-65) are compared each other to get relationship between them, see (col. 8, lines 25-65). Thus, relationships are resulted from correlation between user1 and user2. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include correlating the new members with the existing members in the system of Weinreich. Because a user's some personal data is common to all user, which can be linked to other user's personal data that existed before. Thus, the correlation to other user's personal data provides relationship of all users.

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With respect to claim 13-14, Weinreich discloses, the server being a computer and program readable by a computer, see (col. 5, lines 23-67 to col. 6, lines 1-45).

### ***Conclusion***

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Rajarajan et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,363,394) discloses the system for automatically generating table neighborhoods comprises a database designer which automatically generates a database diagram for a selected table. The database designer automatically compiles a set of tables having the desired relation to a selected table. The desired level of relation may be several levels removed from the selected table, in which case, the database designer searches multiple levels for tables to be included in the database diagram. Thereafter, the database designer gathers format data for the selected table and the set of tables having the desired relation to the selected table. Finally, the database designer displays the selected table, the tables in the set of tables having the desired relation to the selected table, and the relationships between these tables. Thus, it can be used as 103 reference.


**Contact Information**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Isaac M Woo whose telephone number is (703) 305-0081. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E Breene can be reached on (703) 305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

IMW  
February 10, 2004

  
SHAHID ALAM  
PRIMARY EXAMINER